



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 5, 2014

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101**

**Raised Bill No. 5457: An Act Concerning The Collection of
Data By Health And Human Services Agencies**

The Department of Public Health is opposed to House Bill 5457. This legislation would require state health and human service agencies collecting primary, individual-level data to collect data on such persons' race, ethnicity, gender, primary language, disability status and income, provided such data shall be aggregated in a manner that does not identify such persons.

Although the Department of Public Health supports efforts to standardize state agency data collection so that it is consistent with federal standards set forth in Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act, the current proposal does not specify what the standard data collection categories are for race, ethnicity, gender, primary language, disability status, and income. The Department of Public Health is also concerned that such legislation may have a potentially large fiscal impact on state agencies, and therefore suggests that an impact assessment on state agencies be completed before such legislation is considered.

The Department of Public Health has implemented an ongoing data collection quality improvement program and annual review in order to assess and come into compliance with federal data collection standards, and we consider these ongoing data quality improvement efforts an essential part of efforts to standardize data across all state agencies. The current proposal does not include a provision for such data quality improvement components.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100, Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*